Ute Council Petitions U.S. Senate To Speed Payment Award Money

Representatives of the Tribal Council of Utah Ute Indians appeared before a Senate subcommittee Wednesday in the interest of a speedy congressional approval of a proposed $5,625,000 for the bettering the lot of their people.

Introduced in Congress Monday had been legislation which would result in a $1000 per capita payment to some 1625 members of the Ute Indian tribe plus other benefits in the form of education, public health housing, water rights and consolidation of land holdings.

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Senators Arthur V. Watkins and Wallace F. Bennett. An identical bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Walter K. Granger (D-Utah).

The proposed program would be financed out of the $32,000,000 judgement awarded Utah and Idaho Utes late last year by the U. S. Court of Claims.

Representatives for the Indians said an agreement had been reached under which the Utah Utes would get 60 percent of the judgement money and Colorado Utes the remaining 40 percent.

Francis McKinley, a Ute and a graduate of George Washington University, outlined the

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general program for the senators.

"We expect to run this program like a sound business corporation," he said

Mr McKinley, coordinating officer of the Ute Tribe, resigned a position with the Treasury Dept to help his people with the program

"Our long range objective is to make full citizens out of the Utes of Utah," he said.

Mr McKinley pointed out that one of the main parts of the program would be to purchase additional winter grazing land for the Indians' cattle

Reginald Curry, of the Tribe business committee, said it was planned during the three-year program to transfer all of the Indians from the Ouray reservation to public schools.

Mr. Curry said the council felt it was better to make loans than outright grants to the Indians

The Indians were represented at the Hearings with their attorney John Boyden of Salt Lake City

At the conclusion of the hearing, Clinton P Anderson (D., N. M) said he was confident that a satisfactory bill would be reported out when he could get the group together for an executive session.

He praised the Indians for the excellent presentation of their case.